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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: April 22, 2005

TO: Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549
 For: TANTALUM AND NIOBUM BILLETS
 AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME
Our Ref.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)

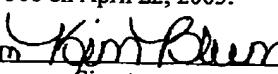
FROM: Luke A. Kilyk, Esq. 

FAC. TEL. NO.: 1-703-872-9306

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 26

Items Attached: Amendment - 25 pages

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9306 on April 22, 2005.

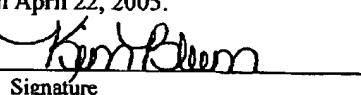
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michaluk) Examiner: Lois L. Zheng
)
Application Number: 10/042,549) Group Art Unit: 1742
)
Filed: January 9, 2002) Confirmation No.: 5470
)
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01))

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 22, 2005

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005 in the above-identified application, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before April 25, 2005.

Amendments to the Claims begin at page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin at page 12 of this paper.